

## **A Stable Foundation in a Disturbed World**

Scriptures: Matthew 7:23-27 and 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Message

We are living in a period of change and unrest. We are living in a period of doubt and confusion. We are living in a time of joy and sorrow. And we are living in a time of challenge and opportunity.

We are a generation which seems increasingly unsure of itself and depressed by a sense of inadequacy in the presence of increasingly urgent and difficult demands. Our days seemed filled with strain and stress. Our battle of life is a hard fight to maintain one's integrity and to win a worthy character. We are involved in real warfare!

If you are drifting and feeling like you are being torn apart, I hope today's message will comfort you.

Let us talk about foundations: You have probably all heard of the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy, but have you heard of the leaning tower of San Francisco? It is called the Millennium Tower. It was built in 2008. It is a 58 story skyscraper which stands proudly in downtown San Francisco. One problem – it is slightly crooked!

Its engineers did not dig a deep enough foundation so now they are being forced to retrofit the foundation with repairs that may cost more than the entire tower did when it was originally built. This fix, some believe, is very necessary to keep it from collapsing during an earthquake.

The painful lesson here is – Foundations matter! When your foundation is not solid, catastrophe could ensue.

Jesus taught something similar near the end of his Sermon on the Mount. In our reading from Matthew 7:24 – 27, Jesus contrasts two builders – one who built on a rock and another on sand. When a storm inevitably came, only the house with a solid foundation was left standing. Only the house built upon the rock still stood standing!

Christ does not promise we will never face storms in life, but Christ does say that when He is our rock, our faith fortified foundation in him will remain standing.

How has your faith helped you to weather the worst storms you have faced?

In times like these, we are called upon to build meaningful lives. We are urged to develop to our highest potential. We are challenged to stand upon our feet and be real to our faith in Jesus Christ. We are invited to go on a crusade for the recapturing of the lost chords of true Christianity. We are called to cope with the affairs of life.

Times like these demand strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and ready hands.

Where can we find a stable foundation to do all these things in a disturbed world? Where can we find our foundation? Christ is our foundation! Christ is a foundation that we can build on.

A foundation is always the beginning of a good building. A foundation is the essential principal of a strong structure. We may think of the church as a spiritual edifice and Jesus Christ as the foundation stone upon which all that the church stands for is built. Christ is the corner stone of our faith.

The foundation is the most important part of any structure and Christ is the most important part of the structure of our faith.

In the building and development of our character and spiritual life, we need something strong and solid to build on. Hence, we propose the name of Jesus as that cornerstone on which mankind ought to build!

Christ is the foundation of the Gospel. Jesus is the founder and source of our spiritual ways because Jesus said – *I am the way and the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me!*

Christ is the foundation of the Christian Church. The church is an institution begun by Jesus Christ and passed on to Peter who Jesus called the rock that he will build the church. Peter confused and confirmed Jesus' divine character when he called Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

The church belongs to Christ. Christ preserves it, Christ maintains it, and Christ protects it. Christ purchased the church with a heavy price, his life. Christ paid the most precious price for the church, his life upon a cross.

Humanity needs a strong foundation. Humanity is not capable to develop to its highest capabilities if it was left alone. Humanity cannot discover life's highest meaning if it is left alone. Humanity would continue to fumble and stumble, dash and clash, and scatter and spatter if it is left alone. Jesus offers a strong foundation that will meet humanity's deepest needs.

Man's quest for meaning will be realized in Jesus Christ. The thirst that man wants is met in Jesus Christ. Man's way to the best way is found in Jesus Christ. The right way for man is in the truth of Jesus Christ!

HG Wells, never considered a religious man, studied the history of the human race and he came to this conclusion – 'Religion is the first thing and the last thing, and until man found God, that is when man found himself. Man begins as no beginning and man works to no end. Man may have his friendships, his partial loyalties, his scraps of honor, but all these things fall into place, and life falls into place only with God.

Want a strong foundation – find Jesus because he is the same today and forever.

A minister one Sunday shared these profound words – 'We have our electric lights, but they do not light the way to justice and peace. We have our refrigerators, but they do not cool the angry passion of man's heart. We have our towering skyscrapers, but they do not bring us nearer to God. We have our great power, but it is not powerful enough to save a single man from his inner sin. We have all this, but it is through Jesus Christ that all things are possible!'

I hope that all of us resolve to build on the foundation of Jesus Christ. We ought to gladly and willingly accept Jesus as our Lord and King because He is the way, the truth, and the life.

True followers of Jesus Christ will see in Him a name above all others, a light that shines in the darkness, a voice that speaks wisdom and truth, and a leader who will lead this great army of Christians throughout the world and on to victory.

Yes, Jesus is the One who can meet our every need.

Let us pray:

O God, storms are inevitable in life! Help us to choose to dwell daily in scripture. Strengthen our strong foundation in You and may our faith be built upon the rock, Jesus Christ.

Father in Heaven, we thank you for this time of worship over YouTube. Answer our prayers and the desires of our hearts. Answer our prayers, not according to our will but according to your will. May your infinite wisdom and love be our guide. Let us not only be hearers of your words but let us also be doers of your word. Nourish us in all goodness and let your mercy be upon us. May our foundation be in Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Now let us recognize our 2021 church officers –

(Reading of 'A Disciples Affirmation' by Sherri Plocinski)

(Reading of the names and positions of church officers by Pat Drizd)

(Sharing a prayer of blessings for 2021 church officers by Pastor Rich)